

## TESTIMONY

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

Hello, My name is Mary Caggiano Cammuso. I reside at 410 Farmington Avenue in New Britain, Ct. I am employed for Independence Unlimited in Hartford, one of the five non- profit independent living centers in the state of Connecticut. I am here today to address the appropriation's committee and voice my displeasure towards the elimination of funding for the SILC's in the governor's 2013- 14 budget. Such eliminations would be devastating to the consumers we serve, some of which depend on us for just basic needs such as food, housing and transportation.

Our programs provide a feeling of self worth and reliance to the disabled community. We empower them to become independent through skills training and peer counseling. We identify ggoals for them and provide them with resources they need to be successful and live independently within their own community, thus in the long run saving the state of Connecticut thousands of dollars in state and federal entitlements. I understand the importance of such programs and resources because I myself am legally blind and would not be as successful as I am today, if it were not for the help of such programs as this.

In conclusion, I would like to strongly urge the appropriations committee to please reconsider voting us back into the budget on behalf of all the disabled community.

Thank You for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Caggiano Cammuso